



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
July 21, 2004

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### **State Health Department Reports 130 Cases of Whooping Cough**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced that 130 cases of whooping cough (pertussis) have been reported in the state. This number reflects cases identified since June 22, 2004.

The following is a breakdown by county of the whooping cough cases reported to the department:

- Ward County – 97
- Burleigh County – 8
- McHenry County – 8
- McLean County – 6
- Mountrail County – 3
- Stark County – 1
- Benson County – 1
- Grand Forks County – 1
- Stutsman County – 1
- Pierce County – 1
- Sargent County – 1
- Barnes County – 1
- Cass County – 1

“Because whooping cough cases continue to be reported across the state, it’s important that people take precautions not to spread the disease,” said Immunization Program Manager Heather Weaver. Measures that can prevent the spread of whooping cough include:

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water. Hand washing is one of the best preventive measures, not only for whooping cough, but for all diseases.
- Using good respiratory manners. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing.

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*Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).*

- Staying home from work or other recreational activities when you're ill. This will help prevent the spread of whooping cough to your friends, coworkers and family.

Whooping cough is characterized by one or more of the following symptoms:

- Prolonged cough (lasting for a week or more)
- Long spells of coughing with spasms
- Coughing with a whooping sound
- Coughing that leads to gagging or vomiting

People who have any of the above symptoms should contact their health-care provider to be evaluated. People who do not have any symptoms do not need to be tested.

“At this time of year, families and friends are gathering for family reunions and picnics,” Weaver said. “Everyone should do his or her part to prevent spreading the disease to others.”

Children younger than 7 should be vaccinated to help prevent them from contracting the disease. Parents should contact their health-care providers if they have questions about their child's vaccination status. Children can receive their first vaccination against whooping cough when they are 6 weeks old. No vaccine is available for adults or children age 7 and older.

For more information about whooping cough in North Dakota, call 800.472.2180 or your local public health unit.

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